



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# Celilo Village

## Redevelopment Newsletter

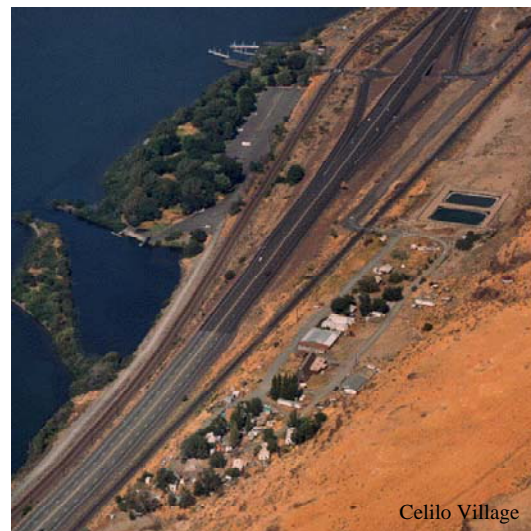
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### Redevelopment history

For millennia, the Celilo area has served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. Celilo Village, itself, currently supports 13 dwellings and about 50 people, but inadequate sanitary and water systems have caused public health and safety problems that concern federal, tribal, state and local health officials. To resolve these problems, the tribes formally requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites (CRTFAS) Project. Celilo Village Redevelopment was authorized by Pres. George W. Bush on March 2, 2004, as part of Public Law 108-204, and provides for the reconstruction of the village and associated structures and systems, repairs to the longhouse, and operation and maintenance of the rebuilt village.

The Corps continues to work with the tribes, agencies, residents and other stakeholders to make redevelopment a reality. The Corps is scheduling and facilitating monthly meetings with the reconstituted Wyam Board. Discussion topics from the meeting that was held on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Columbia River Gorge Discovery Center will be outlined in the newsletter.



### Design/Build Contract for Longhouse

Mr. Scott Chun, the Corps' architect and technical lead, discussed the status of plans for the design/build contract for the longhouse. The Corps' current plan is to finish all longhouse repairs in time for the 2005 Spring Salmon Feast. Mr. Chun stated that the Corps intends to hire the Colville Tribal Services Corporation, a tribally owned and operated building and road construction contractor, to perform the work on the longhouse. After the design/build contract is signed, Colville will hold meetings at the village to discuss the longhouse repairs with the residents, the Wyam Board, and other interested parties. These meetings will give Colville the opportunity to explain on-site the changes that will be made to the longhouse and other structures, while gathering input on important considerations such as designing the kitchen to facilitate ceremonial processions.

### New Water Well Drilling

A crucial step in the redevelopment process is the drilling of a new, deep well for providing clean water. Mr. David Scofield, a Corps geotechnical engineer, discussed the status of plans for the drilling of a new water well. Mr. Scofield stated that the drilling of the new well will likely take approximately two months, and would begin in late September/early October, 2004. The old well will be decommissioned, and the Corps will take all necessary precautions, including placing noise buffering structures and drilling during specific parts of the day, to reduce the disruption to the village caused by drilling activities. The Wyam Board had a number of questions regarding the new water system and well, including the capacity

of the new water system and what type of water quality testing will be done on it; the life expectancy of the well; and where the water storage tank would be located. The Corps will address these questions at a future Wyam Board meeting, once plans have been developed further, and will insure that the proper technical staff are present at the meeting.

## Cultural Resources Compliance

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Mr. George Miller, the Corps' project manager, provided an update on cultural resources compliance efforts. The Wyam Board suggested that cultural resources staff from the tribes should be present at future meetings to insure they are aware of what the next steps in the process are. Mr. Miller stated that the Corps was currently working on a framework for agreement with the tribes, the BIA, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for dealing with cultural resource compliance regarding the longhouse repairs and new water well drilling. Work on a more detailed agreement between the parties regarding actual village reconstruction will begin shortly.

## Wyam Board Sworn In

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The swearing-in ceremony for the Wyam Board was held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Mr. Stanley Speaks, the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs presided. Election of officers occurred shortly after the ceremony.

## Municipal Code Development

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Mr. Roger Wagoner, the project manager for *Berryman & Henigar*, provided an update on the status of plans for developing a Celilo Village Municipal Code. Mr. Wagoner said that the code is envisioned as a combination "manual" and "rule-book" that will provide direction and guidance for facility managers and the community and have provisions for Village administration, housing and community facilities management, and utilities and common areas maintenance. A code appendix will detail resources available to village residents. The Wyam Board wishes to include tribal planning and legal technical staff in the code development. Mr. Wagoner will provide the tribes a draft needs assessment discussion paper for technical staff review and comment. The series of meetings that were scheduled on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September to discuss municipal code development with the village residents will be rescheduled due to the unfortunate passing of Chief Howard Jim. A special edition of this newsletter in his honor is being produced with the help of his family.

## Upcoming activities

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- **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.** The next scheduled Wyam Board meeting will be held in the classroom at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058 from 10a.m. to noon. The meeting will update Corps progress on the design/build contract for the longhouse, new water well drilling, cultural resources compliance, and municipal code development.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is designed to provide information about Celilo Village Redevelopment. It is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or by email at [george.j.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil). For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jeremy Weber at (503) 808-4735 or by email at [jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil).

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